

#9/A

2139.24

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Shigenori Ohta, et al. ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
(National Phase of PCT Application )  
No. PCT/JP00/08391 filed Nov. 29, 2000) )  
Filed: Currently herewith )  
For: METHOD OF ENHANCING )  
SALTY TASTE, SALTY TASTE )  
ENHANCER, SALTY TASTE )  
SEASONING AGENT AND )  
SALTY ) July 25, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application  
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7, 14, 21-24, and 40-42, to read as follows. A  
marked-up copy of Claims 7, 14, 21-24, and 40-42, showing the changes made thereto, is  
attached.

7. (Amended) The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, which further  
comprises adding succinic acid.

A<sup>2</sup>

14. (Amended) The salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10, further comprising succinic acid.

21. (Amended) The salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to 17, further comprising succinic acid.

A<sup>3</sup>

22. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10.

23. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10.

24. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to 17.

40. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to 33.

A<sup>4</sup>

41. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to 33.

42. A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 35 to 38.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. The first step in the process of the development of a new product is the identification of a market need. This is done by conducting market research, which involves gathering information about the target market and its needs. The next step is to develop a concept for the new product, which is then refined through a series of iterations. The final step is to develop a business plan for the new product, which includes a detailed description of the product, the market, and the financial projections. The business plan is then used to secure funding for the new product.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

7. (Amended) The method according to any of claims 1 to [6] 3, which further comprises adding succinic acid.

14. (Amended) The salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [13] 10, further comprising succinic acid.

21. (Amended) The salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to [20] 17, further comprising succinic acid.

22. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [14] 10.

23. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [14] 10.

24. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to [21] 17.

40. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to [34] 33.

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41. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to [34] 33.

42. A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 35 to [39] 38.